



Range Review

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THANK YOU

to all the producers who participated in our recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

*Agriculture Prices
Sept. Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Agricultural Labor*

LIVESTOCK PRICES REMAIN STRONG

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during August was 147 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 5 points (4 percent) from July and up 15 points (11 percent) from August 2007. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The **All Livestock Index**, at 144, was up 10 points (7 percent) from July and up 10 points (7 percent) from August 2007. Prices for all livestock were up from last year except for calves and sheep. Compared to last month, prices were up for cows, steers, and heifers but down for calves, sheep, and lambs. Cow prices averaged \$62.50 per hundredweight, up \$2.30 from July and up \$8.90 from last year. Steer and heifer prices, at \$112.00 per hundredweight, were up \$3.00 from last month and up \$5.00 from last year's price. Calf prices averaged \$127.00 per hundredweight,

down \$2.00 from last month and down \$6.00 from last year. Sheep prices, at \$21.20, were down \$2.80 from July and \$6.40 below last year's price. Lamb prices, at \$110.00, were down \$1.00 from July but up \$3.00 from last year.

The **All Crops Index**, at 156, was down 9 points (5 percent) from July but up 29 points (23 percent) from last August. Hay prices were lower than last month but remained above last year. Alfalfa hay, down \$5.00 from last month but up \$1.00 from last year, came in at \$115.00 per ton. Other hay, at \$112.00 per ton, was down \$8.00 from last month but up \$3.00 from last year.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 155 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 4 points (3 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down 7 points (4 percent) and the Livestock Index declined 1 point (1 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, broilers, soybeans, and milk. Higher prices were realized for wheat, hogs, eggs, and strawberries. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 points (12 percent) from August 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 153, decreased 3 points (2 percent) from last month but increased 11 points (8 percent) from August 2007.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AUGUST 2007, JULY 2008, AND AUGUST 15, 2008 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		AUG 2007	JUL 2008	AUG 15 2008	AUG 2007	JUL 2008	AUG 15 2008	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	53.60	60.20	62.50	51.50	56.40	57.60	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	107.00	109.00	112.00	95.70	99.60	100.00	—
Calves	100#	133.00	129.00	127.00	127.00	115.00	114.00	30
Sheep	100#	27.60	24.00	21.20	28.30	26.90	1/	—
Lambs	100#	107.00	111.00	110.00	97.90	103.00	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	4.50	2/	2/	3.26	5.24	4.90	56
Oats	Bu.	2.69	2/	2/	2.24	3.46	3.17	56
Feed Barley	Bu.	2/	2/	2/	3.60	4.70	4.41	—
All Wheat	Bu.	5.88	7.17	2/	5.64	7.16	8.02	58
Dry Beans	100#	27.00	2/	2/	25.70	36.50	39.60	56
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	114.00	120.00	115.00	135.00	177.00	180.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	109.00	120.00	112.00	105.00	130.00	126.00	—
1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996. 2/Insufficient sales to establish a price. NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.								
INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.								
1990-92 = 100		WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		AUG 2007	JUL 2008	AUG 15 2008	AUG 2007	JUL 2008	AUG 15 2008	
All Commodities		132	142	147	139	159	155	
All Crops		127	165	156	142	182	175	
All Livestock and Products		134	134	144	137	138	137	

EXPECTED SUGARBEET PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates Wyoming sugarbeet production will be slightly down from last year, according to Sofiya Cherni with the Wyoming Field Office of USDA NASS. The sugarbeet production forecast is down 2 percent below last year. According to the Crop Weather report for Wyoming ending August 31st, 2008 the sugarbeet condition was rated 84 percent good or better.

Sugarbeet producers intended to harvest 27,000 acres, down 3,200 acres from last year. The expected average yield is 24.0 tons per acre, up 2 tons from the August 1 forecast and 2.2 tons more than the 2007 yield. Total production is expected to be 648,000 tons, 2 percent below 2007.

The following forecasts were carried forward from August 1. Based on August 1 conditions, **barley** production was expected to total 6.75 million bushels, up 43 percent from last year's crop and up 39 percent from 2006. **Dry bean** production in 2008 is forecast at 708,000 hundredweight. The August 1 forecast for **alfalfa hay** was 1.68 million tons, up 9 percent from last year's crop, and up 20 percent from the 2006 crop. Yields are expected to average 2.8 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above last year. Production of **all other hay**, at 840,000 tons, down fractionally from last year but up 17 percent from 2006. Acreage expected to be cut is at 600,000, up 70,000 acres from 2007. Average yield, at 1.4 tons per acre, is down 0.2 ton per acre from 2007 but up 0.1 ton per acre from 2006.

UNITED STATES: Corn production is forecast at 12.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 152.3 bushels per acre, down 2.7 bushels from August but 1.2 bushels above last year. If realized, yield will be the second highest on record, behind 2004, while production will be the second largest, behind last year. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across the northern and eastern Corn Belt and the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys where the lack of rainfall during August reduced soil moisture supplies and stressed the crop. Yield prospects also decreased across much of the middle Mississippi Valley and adjacent areas of the Great Plains as dry weather during August eliminated soil moisture surpluses.

Production of **sugarbeets** in 2008 is forecast at 26.1 million tons, down 3 percent from the August forecast and down 18 percent from last year. Production forecasts are down from last year in all estimating States except Colorado. Growers expect to harvest 1.06 million acres in 2008, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 15 percent from last year. The yield forecast, at 24.7 tons per acre, is up 0.6 ton from August but down 0.9 ton from 2007. Yield expectations are higher than last month in all States except North Dakota and Washington.

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION FINAL 2007 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 FORECAST 1/

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	Sept 1 2008	2007	2008	08/07
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000	Percent	
WYOMING									
Barley (bu)	62	90	53	75	89.0	90.0	4,717	6,750	143
Sugarbeets (tons)	30.8	28.8	30.2	27.0	21.8	24.0	658	648	98
Dry Beans (cwt)	25.0	31.0	24.0	30.0	23.1	23.6	555	708	128
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—		570	600	2.70	2.80	1,539	1,680	109
Other Hay (tons)	—		530	600	1.60	1.40	848	840	100
All Hay (tons)	—		1,100	1,200	2.17	2.10	2,387	2,520	106
UNITED STATES									
Corn-Grain (bu) 2/	93,600	86,977	86,542	79,290	151.1	152.3	13,073,893	12,072,365	92
Winter Wheat (bu)	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	42.2	46.6	1,515,989	1,874,857	124
Spring Wheat (bu) 3/	13,297	14,197	12,947	13,751	37.0	36.4	479,047	500,988	105
Oats (bu)	3,760	3,467	1,505	1,443	60.9	62.3	91,599	89,897	98
Barley (bu)	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	60.4	59.9	211,825	217,976	103
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,268.8	1,110.1	1,246.8	1,057.7	25.6	24.7	31,912	26,089	82
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,526.9	1,401.9	1,478.7	1,353.6	17.2	17.9	25,371	24,172	95
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—		21,670	20,778	3.35	3.41	72,575	70,944	98
Other Hay (tons)	—		39,955	39,661	1.95	1.94	77,729	77,011	99
All Hay (tons)	—		61,625	60,439	2.44	2.45	150,304	147,955	98

1/Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from the August Crop Production report. Current year estimates are for the full 2008 crop year.

2/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

3/Excluding Durum

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.87 million head on August 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below August 1, 2007 and 9 percent below August 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent above 2007 but 15 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.62 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 476,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.04 million, 2 percent above 2007 and 5 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 45,000 during July, 26 percent below 2007 and 22 percent below 2006.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST, 2007-2008 1/

State	On Feed July 1, 2008	Place- ments July 2008	Market- ings July 2008	Other Disapp. July 2008	On Feed Aug 1, 2008	On Feed Aug 1, 2007
Thousand Head						
CO	820	105	170	5	750	870
KS	2,080	440	500	10	2,010	2,100
NE	2,050	320	440	10	1,920	1,910
TX	2,660	460	520	10	2,590	2,780
Oth Sts.	2,685	336	412	10	2,599	2,639
U.S.	10,295	1,661	2,042	45	9,869	10,299

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during July 2008 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was 20 percent above both last year and last month. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Seven hundred **cattle** were slaughtered in July compared to 600 head last year. Total live weight was 796,000 pounds, up 17 percent from June 2007. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,210 pounds, up 89 pounds from last year.

A total of 400 **hogs and pigs** were processed, unchanged from last year. Total live weight, at 114,000 pounds, was up 15 percent from July 2007. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 262 pounds, unchanged from last year.

Two hundred **sheep and lambs** were processed in July, unchanged from last year. Total live weight came in at 27,000 pounds, up 17 percent from last year. The average live weight, at 149 pounds, was down 2 pounds compared to last year.

January to July 2008 commercial red meat production was 3.6 million pounds, unchanged from last year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.25 billion pounds in July, up 8 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in July 2007.

Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 6 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.85 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.47 million head, up 13 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.7 million pounds, was up 1 percent from July 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,800 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from July a year ago.

January to July 2008 commercial red meat production was 29.3 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 2007 AND 2008, Wyoming and U.S.

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Live Weight			Number of Head		Total Live Weight		
	July 2007	July 2008	July 2007	July 2008	08/07	July 2007	July 2008	July 2007	July 2008	08/07
			1,000 Pounds		Percent			1,000 Pounds		Percent
Cattle	600	700	680	796	117	2,903,100	3,064,000	3,673,852	3,888,150	106
Hogs	400	400	99	114	115	8,399,000	9,465,200	2,217,224	2,480,080	112
Sheep & Lambs	200	200	23	27	117	206,000	207,800	26,985	27,411	102

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use \$300

NUMBER OF WORKERS UP FROM LAST YEAR

The number of hired farm and ranch workers in the tri-state region during the week of July 6-12, 2008 was up 8,000 (36 percent) from a year ago. During this period, 30,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. Of the 30,000 hired workers, 24,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 6,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 15,000 and 7,000 last year.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$10.00 per hour, up 80 cents (9 percent) from July 2007. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$10.49 per hour compared with \$8.36 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.98 per hour compared with \$9.22 last year.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 44.0 compared with 43.4 last July.



UNITED STATES: There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

**FARM WAGE RATES BY TYPE OF WORKER,
REGIONS AND U.S., JULY 6-12, 2008 1/**

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour				
Mntn I 2/	10.49	8.98	9.78	10.00
Mntn II 3/	10.39	11.14	10.65	11.00
No Plns 4/	9.89	10.17	10.00	10.27
U.S. 5/	9.66	9.98	9.74	10.34

1/Excludes Ag Service Workers

2/Idaho Montana, and Wyoming

3/Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North

& South Dakota

5/Excludes Alaska